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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Opening ceremony conducted for Beyond the Horizon 2008

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ZANDERIJ, Suriname – Officials from the United States and Suriname gathered for the opening ceremony for the Beyond the Horizon 2008 exercise Monday, June 30, at the Jan Starke Opleiding-en Ontspannings Centrum near Zanderij.

Beyond the Horizon encompasses construction projects, medical, dental, and veterinary services offered to thousands of Surinamers at no cost in various districts. The humanitarian operation will take place between June and September 2008 in partnership between the Suriname and U.S. governments.

U.S. Ambassador Lisa Bobbie Schreiber Hughes said she was excited to see thousands of Surinamers, from Paramaribo to Brokopondo, getting cooperative health care.

In the districts of Nickerie, Coronie, Commewijne and Marowijne, free basic medical care and free basic dental treatment will be offered to the local community, while in Para and Brokopondo the emphasis will be on dental care, she added.

The Beyond the Horizon 2008 exercise is completely financed by the U.S. and is a result of the friendly relations between the two countries. The exercise also takes place in conjunction with the National Guard State Partnership Program between Suriname and the state of South Dakota, which began in 2006. South Dakota Army National Guardsmen from the 153rd Engineer Battalion and the 155th Engineer Company will conduct renovation projects at three school locations and three medical clinics in support of the exercise.

“The mission is all about working together on this cooperative project,” said Ambassador Hughes. “We do not want to do things for you (Suriname), but with you.”

Photo Cut Lines:



080630-A-5202T-043: ZANDERIJ, Suriname – U.S. Ambassador Lisa Bobbie Schreiber Hughes hands over the scissors to Minister of Defense Ivan Fernald during the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Beyond the Horizon 2008 exercise on Monday, June 30, at Zanderij Jan Starke Opleiding-en Ontspannings Centrum. Beyond the Horizon 2008 encompasses construction projects, medical, dental, and veterinary services offered to thousands of Surinamers in various districts free of charge. The humanitarian operation will take place between June and September 2008 in partnership between the Suriname and U.S. governments. (Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Theanne Tangen)(RELEASED)

Link to photo: <https://sdguard.ngb.army.mil/released/080630-A-5202T043.jpg>



080630-A-5202T-038: ZANDERIJ, Suriname – Andrew Utschig, public affairs representative from the U.S. Embassy in Suriname, Minister of Defense Ivan Fernald, District Commissioner Hugo Pinas, and U.S. Ambassador Lisa Bobbie Schreiber Hughes take a tour of the dental treatment site after the opening ceremony for the Beyond the Horizon 2008 exercise on Monday, June 30, at Zanderij Jan Starke Opleiding-en Ontspannings Centrum. Beyond the Horizon 2008 encompasses construction projects, medical, dental, and veterinary services offered to thousands of Surinamers in various districts free of charge. The humanitarian operation will take place between June and September 2008 in partnership between the Suriname and U.S. governments. (Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Theanne Tangen)(RELEASED)

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